

Message Text

PAGE 01 USUN N 00341 311727Z

64

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 311630Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2547

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0341

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN UR

SUBJ: INFORMAL US-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS

1. AT SOVIET MISSION AND ON AMB MALIK'S INVITATION, WE HAD ONE OF OUR PERIODIC INFORMAL WORKING LUNCHEONS WITH SOVIETS JAN 29. VERY LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE WAS DISCUSSED AND OCCASION TURNED OUT TO BE ALMOST ENTIRELY JOVIAL.
2. MALIK WAS IN EXPANSIVE, JOVIAL MOOD, BUT LARGLY DIVIDED HIS REMARKS BETWEEN COLD WAR VERSIONS OF HISTORY AND EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ABOUT "ANCHRONISTIC" ANTI-SOVIETISM AMONG US LEADERS AND IN US PRESS. HE WAS ESPECIALLY EXERCISED ABOUT LAIRD ARTICLE IN "READERS DIGEST" AND ABOUT SENATOR JACKSON AND HE AND SOVIET STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT REFERRED TO JACKSON AS HAVING "NOTORIOUS" REPUTATION WITH SOVIET PUBLIC.
3. IN RESPONSE TO MY ASSERTION THAT SENIOR OFFICIALS OF *USG FIRMLY COMMITTED TO DETENTE, MALIK CONTRASTED "ANTI-SOVIET" AMERICANS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER WHOSE ATTITUDE HE TERMED "CONSTRUCTIVE."
4. IN COURSE GENERAL CONVERSATION, I RHETORICALLY ASKED MALIK WHETHER WE SHOULD CONSIDER HIS ACTIONS THIS WEEK IN CALLING FOR SC CONSULTATIONS ON ME PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AS USSR'S ANSWER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SEPTEMBER 24, 1973, PEACEKEEPING INITIATIVE. MALIK DID NOT REPLY DIRECTLY, ALTHOUGH TREND OF HIS AND OTHER SOVIET COMMENT AROUND THE TABLE INDICATED ME OPERATIONS WERE TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY AND THAT HIS POSITION IN SC THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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WEEK REFLECTED BASIC SOVIET THEOLOGY ON PEACEKEEPING OF GENERAL APPLICATION.

5. I WENT ON TO NOTE THAT MANY AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMENTATORS WHO FAVOR DETENTE ALSO ARE STRONGLY PRO-ISRAEL AND SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN LINING UP WITH ARABS

NATURALLY HAS CAUSED WONDERMENT ABOUT HOW FIRMLY COMMITTED
SOVIET ARE TO DENTENTE.

6. I BELIEVE THAT SESSION WAS USEFUL PARTICULARLY IN
REITERATING TO HARD-LINER MALIK THAT HARD WORK AND
RECIPRICITY ARE REQUIRED IF DENTENTE TO HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE
PRACTICAL EFFECTS IN UN CONTEXT.
SCALI

CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN00341
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750001-2159
From: USUN NY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740174/abbrzamo.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PFOR, US, UR, UN
To: STATE INFO MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005